

Art Heritage

Warrandyte a heritage steeped in art



Warrandyte has a rich art heritage. As a bush village remote from Melbourne it became a popular destination for artists of the [Heidelberg School](#) in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In 1905 one of the foremost female artists of the day, [Clara Southern](#) moved to the hill overlooking the Yarra and the small village below. An artist's colony developed with Penleigh Boyd, Louis McCubbin, Charles Wheeler and Jo Sweatman joining their colleague on The Hill.

In the 35 years she lived in Warrandyte Clara Southern captured the tranquility of the bush and the rustic nature of the picturesque little village. The pub, wooden buildings, miner's cottages and Yarra River were all faithfully recorded for posterity. The local inhabitants going about their daily lives were also a rich source of subject matter to be captured in the impressionist style of the era. Clara loved nature and the unique bush around Warrandyte is lovingly depicted in all seasons and its striking colours. She continued to live and paint in Warrandyte until her death in 1940.

Clara Southern was born in Kyneton, Victoria in 1860. She studied at the National Gallery School, Melbourne and took lessons from Walter Withers. For a decade she shared a studio with Jane Sutherland and Tom Roberts.

Her mentor and teacher Walter Withers would often visit Clara in Warrandyte and to paint the local landscape. One of Withers's iconic works is Old Bridge Warrandyte c.1910 the major crossing over the Yarra.

We **were** privileged to have Old Bridge Warrandyte as the fitting catalogue cover for the Warrandyte 27th Rotary Artshow. Our appreciation goes to the National gallery of Victoria.

An Old Bee Farm Clara Southern — National Gallery Victoria

Clara Southern was born in Kyneton, Victoria on the 3rd October, 1860, the eldest of six children. She studied at the National Gallery School, Melbourne and took lessons from Walter Withers. From 1888 to 1898 she shared a studio with Jane Sutherland and Tom Roberts.

In 1905 Southern married at the age of 44 to John Flinn, a local miner, and moved to Warrandyte. Most of her work depicts the landscape, farm buildings and cottages of this area, but she also captured the rural women going about their daily chores. Southern's presence in Warrandyte prompted other artists to follow and an artistic community formed in the area known as 'The Hill' on the Northern side of the Yarra. She continued to live and paint in Warrandyte until her death in 1940

